

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 4-25 are pending in the application, with claim 25 being the independent claim. Claims 1-3 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claim 25 is sought to be added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made.**"

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

The indication that claims 8-12 and 20-22 contain allowable subject matter is gratefully noted.

***Prior Art Rejections***

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by GB 1,442,751 to Molins et al. ("Molins")

Claims 1, 5-7 and 23-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Molins in view of DE 2758041 to Kiesewette and US 5,975,238 to Fuchs et al ("Fuchs").

Claim 1 has been canceled in favor of claim 25, which is a combination of features from claims 1-3 and allowable claim 8. Claim 25 recites "hollow wall elements having sieve perforated sheet panels facing the control area and reflection panels facing the respective production machine" and "at least one sound damping mat being arranged between the sieve perforated sheet metal panel and the reflection panel of each of the hollow wall elements." This language is similar to that of allowable claim 8, which recited "the production machine includes a removable carriage having inside plates and outside sieve-like cladding sheets, and the sound damping material comprises damping mats disposed between the inside reflection plates and the outside, sieve-like cladding sheets." Accordingly, claim 25 is allowable over the cited references for at least the reasons that claim 8 was allowable. The cited references do not teach a hollow wall element defined by a perforated panel facing the control area and a reflection panel facing the machine, with sound damping mats disposed in between. The remaining claims have been amended to be consistent with claim 25 and are allowable as depending from an allowable claim.

***Reasons for Entry of Amendments After Final***

Entry of the present amendments are respectfully requested because the amendments place the application in condition for allowance and do not require any new consideration on the part of the Examiner. All of the features of new claim 25 were previously recited in the claims examined by the Examiner. Claim 2 recited the arrangement of the production machines; and claim 8 recited the structure of the hollow wall elements by defining inside plates facing the

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machine and outside plates facing the controller with sound damping mats disposed in between.

As such, entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

***Conclusion***

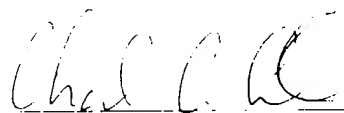
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

A Notice of Allowance with claims 4-25 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 05/05/03



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**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made**

***In the Claims***

Please cancel claims 1-3; add new claim 25; and amend the claims as follows:

4. (Amended) The arrangement according to claim [1] 25, wherein [the production machine includes] cladding [that] forms the reflection panels | surfaces and the sound damping material comprises damping mats disposed on the cladding].

8. (Twice Amended) The arrangement according to claim 25 [1], wherein the production machine includes a removable carriage containing the hollow wall elements [having inside plates and outside sieve-like cladding sheets, and the sound damping material comprises damping mats disposed between the inside reflection plates and the outside, sieve-like cladding sheets].

9. (Amended) The arrangement according to claim 8, wherein the removable carriage includes a corner profile strip having a hollow space filled with [the] damping material, and the reflection plates and [cladding sheets] the panels are insertable into the corner-profile strips.

10. (Amended) The arrangement according to claim 25 [1], wherein the production machine includes a door having inside and outside cladding sheets with reflection surface interposed between the inside and outside cladding sheets defining hollow spaces between the reflection surface and a respective one of the inside and outside cladding sheets, and wherein the

damping material comprises damping mats filling the hollow spaces, and the door further includes a profile frame comprising a hollow body having a pivoting axis and recessed sealing elements and the cladding sheets are inserted into the profile frame.

12. (Amended) The arrangement according to claim 25 [1], wherein the production machine includes a window flap comprising two viewing panes, a profile strip into which the viewing panes are inserted, and a cladding sheet inserted into the profile strip and limiting a hollow space filled with damping mats.

13. (Amended) The arrangement according to claim 25 [2], wherein the at least two tobacco-processing production machines are [production line is] limited by at least one personnel standing region that is provided with a damping layer .

20. (Twice Amended) The arrangement according to claim 25 [1], wherein the production machine has air-flow cross sections for supplying process air and flow conduits, at least some of the flow conduits are clad with sound-damping material, and the air-flow cross sections are predominantly concentrated in the flow conduits clad with sound-damping material.

23. (Amended) The arrangement according to claim 25 [1], wherein the sound-damping mats are arranged [material is disposed on the reflection surfaces facing the operator region] such that noise from outside of the tobacco production machine is absorbed.

24. (Amended) The arrangement according to claim 25 [1], wherein the sound-damping [material] mats are arranged [is disposed on the reflection surfaces facing the operator region] such that noise from outside of the tobacco production machine is at most only minimally reflected.

25. (New) An arrangement for reducing noise level in a control area of production machines in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising in combination:

at least two tobacco-processing production machines arranged at an angle to each other, wherein the production machines have hollow wall elements facing the control area, each said hollow wall elements having sieve perforated sheet metal panels facing the control area and reflection panels facing the respective production machine; and

sound damping mats being arranged between the sieve perforated sheet metal panel and the reflection panel of each of the hollow wall elements.